technology*scanning*

Design and Internet Tools

This category highlights some of the new applications in design, engineering software, and associated tools, as well as internet collaboration design and engineering sites.

Technology Scanning

One of PATH's major research support services is PATH Technology Scanning. *Technology Scanning* tells us about technology developments in other industries, from other nations, from federal laboratories, and from other building sectors. PATH looks for breakthroughs in other industries that could be transferred and applied to housing. *Technology Scanning*—published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/PATH and prepared by the NAHB Research Center, Inc.—are updated as technology developments dictate. The Research Center works to unite technology developers from outside of residential construction with manufacturers in the residential housing sector.

This issue of *Technology Scanning* is one in a series. Each issue in the series falls into one of the following categories:

- *Design and Internet Tools*
- *Safety*
- *Surfaces and Interior Finishes*
- *Building Envelope Technologies*
- *Electrical*
- *Plumbing*
- *Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning*
- *Energy/Power Systems Generation*
- *Basic Materials*
- *Information Technology*
- *Sustainable Design Strategies*
- *Materials Recycling and Reuse*
- *Thermal and Moisture Protection*
- *Indoor Environmental Quality*

Call the ToolBase Hotline at 800-898-2842 for information about other available *Technology Scanning* issues. Or, log onto pathnet.org and www.toolbase.org.

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New Tool for Designers, Idea People

Sketch-up is a new sketching software that combines the elegance and spontaneity of pencil sketching with the speed and flexibility of digital media. It allows users to more quickly explore "what-if" scenarios.

Contact:
Last Software
Boulder, CO
Phone: 303-245-0086
www.sketchup.com

Pocket CAD

Now you can download CAD drawings to a PDA or pocket PC instead of running and carrying sets of blueprints. You can electronically send prints to a customer's printer or site. Or, you can do a wireless transfer to another PC. Prints can be projected to a presentation screen or large monitor for electronic presentation. This system is powered by AutoDesk technology. Pocket CAD Pro costs $199. A downloaded demo is available at www.pocketcad.com.

From Manufacturer to Architect

Now 3D images of a company's product can be instantly inserted into a design or project. You can determine the visual and cost impacts of that product on the building or home. Product!Center, run by Briscnet, is a database with more than 30,000 manufacturers and over 70,000 products. All in Visual Basic Applications (VBA), they are ready for downloading and 3D insertion into a set of plans. The database also applies the specifications to the plan in a copy and paste format. A spreadsheet connected to the plans can be opened and the cost impact determined. Similar products can be compared visually and cost competitively for trade-off analysis.

Contact:
Briscnet
Phone: 603-436-6868
www.briscnet.com

Collaborative Design/Engineering Online

A host of websites offer collaborative design and engineering services. Included are some of the following:

➤ **AECCafe.com**—free online resource for architects, engineers, CAD techs, project managers;

➤ **BuildFind.com**—Buildfind includes AECjobbank.com, Building.com, Remodelonline.com, Contractorlocate.com, and Builderscentral.com;

➤ **Buzzsaw.com**—online collaboration and procurement;

➤ **Engineering.com**—resource tool built by engineers for engineers to share, search, and source;

➤ **Ideal.com**—transform, acquire, view, collaborate, store, edit, and transfer large CAD files;

➤ **Projectvillage.com**—Enterprise community model, web-based collaboration, customizable workflow, and e-commerce;

➤ **ProjectEdge.com**—project communication/management systems, workflow and collaborative capabilities, full off-line functionality;

➤ **ProjectGuides.com**—online professional service consultants automate business development and consultant selection;

➤ **BuildZone.net**—leading building industry portal with special focus on Indian construction industry;

➤ **Construction.com**—access to the construction marketplace through Dodge, Sweets, ENR, ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, and various state construction sites; and

➤ **Projecttalk.com**—an internet based community where you use project management tools without updating or maintaining them or worrying about security. Employees or users get unique access codes.